



Express Mail Label No.: EF371229510US  
Date of Deposit: April 6, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 17564-145

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First-Named Inventor: Tang, Jie  
Assignee: Fry's Metals, Inc.  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MAKING  
UNIFORMLY SIZED AND SHAPED SPHERES  
Original Patent No.: 5,891,212  
Original Issue Date: April 6, 1999

5/c  
mo  
9/6/02

Box REISSUE  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified reissue application, please amend the claims as follows.

Please amend claims 1, 15 and 16 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for forming and solidifying uniform sized and shaped solid spheres comprising the steps of:
- providing a supply of a low viscosity liquid material in a crucible,
  - applying a minute periodic disturbance to the low viscosity liquid material in the crucible,
  - applying a pressure to the low viscosity liquid material, the pressure forcing the material through at least one orifice in the crucible as a steady laminar stream, the stream of the material exiting into an enclosed controlled low temperature solidification environment having a temperature of less than about 0° C., the enclosed controlled low temperature solidification environment containing at least one heat transfer medium, the

109040-5092853

9  
50  
B  
e1